

From: Stephen Mandas
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 5:22pm
Subject: FW: Under the Brim | Red Hat | December 2001

[Text body exceeds maximum size of message body (8192 bytes). It has been converted to attachment.]

Red Hat. Under the Brim. December 2001.
Dear Sirs:

The United States of America, in fact the world at large, will greatly benefit from the existence of more than ONE single home computer operating system. Microsoft created the home computer market and we are all thankful for their accomplishment, but now with Microsoft avidly competing in all three separate computer software areas, Operating System, Operating Software (such as Word), and Internet Browsing Software, the only real choice let to us is which hardware system you will put your Microsoft Computer [sic] on.

Linux is an operating platform that provides that much needed competition. What is even more important is that Linux has additional benefits, such as:

1) Linux development reflects Americans' do-it-yourself attitudes. Linux is open to be developed by anyone and the source code is shipped with the final product. Microsoft hides its source code. Using Linux is like buying a car directly from Henry Ford and Henry himself is willing to show you how it tinker with it. Using Microsoft OS is like paying for a car that you do not own, that you cannot open the hood to look at let alone touch the engine, and that only Microsoft Gas is guarantee work well in it.

2) Linux is safer. Unix machines and now their close cousins Linux machines have always been security minded from the first days when they were used to build our national defenses and the atom bomb. Also look at the recent plague of computer viruses, which have at times crippled parts of our industry. Those viruses only attack Microsoft products. In fact Microsoft states in its publications that it uses UNIX machines to produce distribution software CD's to prevent the accidental introduction of Viruses.

3) Linux is neighborly. Linux will run application software made for Microsoft windows operating systems. Microsoft will not run programs made for Linux machines.

4) Linux is yours to own and does not come with strings attached. Once you own Linux software it is your property and you can do whatever you want with it. This includes making copies and giving them away to all your friends. It also includes putting a nice label on the Linux copy and selling it for as much as you can. Microsoft products never sell you their software. They allow you to use it for a time period. With the advent of Microsoft XP, that time period now has a limit and strict use criteria.

Bill Gates, the entrepreneur, saw the value in the DOS software, kept the rights to it in opposition to the corporate giant IBM, and developed it into the bedrock of home and business computing that Microsoft OS is today. Now the tables have turned and Bill Gates, the corporate giant, stands in the way of today's software entrepreneurs. If the early Bill Gates had corporate giant Microsoft standing in his way, the home computer and today's information based lifestyle may never have happened. The question to ask is, "What beneficial changes can the people who see the value in Netscape, Linux, Star Office, and all the other open license software products bring to us if Microsoft's monopoly is broken?"

Please review the Offer that Red Hat Linux has made to you with a favorable eye. Accepting their offer could begin to level the computer OS playing field and teach diversity in our poorest schools.

Stephen Mandas

-----Original Message-----

From: Red Hat [mailto:RedHat@redhat.rgc2.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2001 1:44 PM
To: smandas@rcc.com
Subject: Under the Brim | Red Hat | December 2001

December 2001

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a.. Red Hat responds to Microsoft antitrust, class-action
settlements

RED HAT RESPONDS TO MICROSOFT ANTITRUST, CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENTS

November was a busy month for Microsoft and the US judicial system. It began when the Department of Justice announced it had reached a settlement of the antitrust suit against the company. The DOJ had previously found Microsoft to be a monopolist, but the settlement included no punishment for past actions and left doubt as to its protections against future monopolistic practices.

The DOJ is collecting your letters about the settlement via email. We encourage you to share your opinions. send your letters to:
microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov

Not long after the DOJ settlement, Microsoft announced it had agreed to another settlement regarding a separate class-action suit brought against the company by numerous parties that alleged overpricing of Microsoft products.

The settlement forces Microsoft to donate software, hardware, and services to America's poorest schools. Red Hat responded to the proposed settlement, pointing out that the settlement could simply introduce Microsoft to a market where they could further extend their monopoly. In its counter-proposal, Red Hat offered to provide free software to every school in America if Microsoft provided the value of its donation in hardware costs rather than its own software.

@ Read About the Class-Action Settlement
@ Read Red Hat's Response

At a hearing on November 27, Red Hat executives testified on behalf of our settlement counter-proposal. Currently the judge presiding over the case is undecided on whether to proceed with the settlement as proposed.

Want to get involved?

Start at the Open Source Now website:
@ OSN

Join the Legislative Alerts list. We'll send you information on the latest public policy issues that affect open source as they happen.
@ Legislative Alert Sign Up

Join the Open Source Now mailing list. This your opportunity to speak directly with members of the open source community, educators, and Red Hat employees about open source advocacy.

MTC-00002939_(XX):3

@ OSN List Sign Up

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UNDER THE BRIM CONTEST 26: SUBLIMINAL MESSAGES III

For last month's contest, we asked you to pull the hidden message out of the following statement given by Bill Gates after the Microsoft settlement.

"The settlement is fair and reasonable and, most important, is in the best interests of consumers and the economy."

Here's what you came up with:

Honorable mention #1 goes to John in Ada, Oklahoma for...
"Naa Naa Boo Boo"

Honorable mention #2 goes to Jon from Texas, who found...
"Nail the consumers"

And the winner of Contest 26, hailing from Atlanta, GA... Jason, who found what Bill was really trying to say...
"Let me resume"

Thanks for playing. Interesting side note: This contest breaks a string of two straight wins by the South African contingent of the UTB audience. Although one now lives in London, it turns out our last two winners grew up going to school together in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Small world....

UNDER THE BRIM CONTEST 27: THE INK BLOT TEST! We're two.

In this month's Under the Brim Contest, we shift our attention from the subliminal thoughts of Bill Gates to the thoughts of, well...you. To participate, all you need to do is read the following subject, then click on the URL below and tell us in 50 words or less what you see.

Subject: A world without Microsoft.
@ Click Here to See Image

The winner receives the latest edition of Red Hat Linux Professional.

To enter, send your interpretation to: feedback@redhat.com

If you don't mind, include your physical location (country/state/city/whatever) when you send your entry. As always, if you don't want to see your name or location in the newsletter, say so. Obscene entries will be ineligible and will be sent to Santa with a recommendation for him to put an X beside your name in the "Naughty" column.

The above email is intended for people who have opted to receive Under the Brim from Red Hat. If you think that you have received this email in error, please accept our apologies. Simply click on the link in the section

below and we'll make sure that you do not receive this kind of email from Red Hat again.

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